

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

MID-SOUTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

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August 8, 2011

Re: Docket # 11-65

Members of the Commission:

Nestled in the crux where North meets South and East meets West, the Mid-South Economic Development Alliance is at the geographical and metaphorical center of progress. Representing the six-county Bootheel region of Southeast Missouri, including Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard, we find our communities are as diverse as they are similar.

From manufacturing and agriculture-biomass resources, to distribution, transportation and logistics, the Mid-South is on the cutting edge of trade and commerce. The appeal of our region is a shrewd combination of maintaining the character of our towns, while being progressive enough to attract the industry of numerous international companies.

While we work hard everyday to promote the resources and human capital present in Mid-South communities, we operate at a disadvantage in one key area, namely communications infrastructure. With all we have to offer, the ability to gain access to advanced mobile broadband technology would be a transformative asset, helping us attract economic investment and market ourselves globally.

The proposed merger of AT&T and T-Mobile will expand access to 4G LTE advanced mobile broadband technology to the Bootheel region. Should the merger not be approved, this access will be delayed and pose a serious obstacle to business operations within our region. Any communications and external marketing is severely hindered and quite possibly, any business recruitment and attraction defeated as a result of the insufficient access. It is as simple as that.

On behalf of the citizens and the businesses of the Mid-South Alliance, I strongly urge you to approve the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Lawrence". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a long, sweeping underline.

Susan Glasgow Lawrence, Director of Economic Development
Mid-South Economic Development Alliance

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn